

The Dawgmeister's Weekend Forecast
November 13th Edition: Passing the Hat for Cam Newton's Senior Season

Weekend wrap-up: Well done, and mission accomplished. But let's not put too much stock in beating a team that not only has far fewer scholarships to award by virtue of its classification, but is further hampered by actually being on probation and having fewer. It's impressive to see that Idaho State is auditioning in case the SEC West decides to expand. Little Woolly wondered why they were called the Bengals, and not the White Guys, given the makeup of their roster. It turns out that they actually wanted to make the name change, but white guys everywhere were so offended that ISU decided to drop the idea.

Apparently Idaho State plays in a stadium that seats about 12,000, so Historic Bobby Dodd Stadium at Historic Grant Field on the Historic Flats on Historic North Avenue just off Historic I-85 has a comparable facility out west, although Idaho State's team plays under a dome in order to prevent innocent bystanders from seeing their team's games, something the Rambling Wreckage might consider trying.

Idaho State is so bad that even fellow Idahoans Boise State won't schedule them. Fortunately, Coach Richt started pulling starters at the pre-game coin toss, which made the final score respectable.

Here's Aaron Murray's stat line for the season:

Stats Overview	Passing										
YEAR	CMP	ATT	YDS	CMP%	YPA	LNG	TD	INT	SACK	RAT	
2010	139	230	2079	60.4	9.04	63	15	6	16	152.67	
Projected	185	307	2772	60.4	9.04	63	20	8	21	152.67	

Other QBs of note:

Greg McElroy

Stats Overview	Passing										
YEAR	CMP	ATT	YDS	CMP%	YPA	LNG	TD	INT	SACK	RAT	
2010	137	194	1781	70.6	9.18	85	11	3	21	163.35	
Projected	183	259	2375	70.6	9.18	85	15	4	28	163.35	

Ryan Mallett

Stats Overview	Passing										
YEAR	CMP	ATT	YDS	CMP%	YPA	LNG	TD	INT	SACK	RAT	
2010	172	259	2449	66.4	9.46	85	18	7	13	163.37	
Projected	229	345	3265	66.4	9.46	85	24	9	17	163.37	

Stephen Garcia

Stats Overview	Passing										
YEAR	CMP	ATT	YDS	CMP%	YPA	LNG	TD	INT	SACK	RAT	
2010	137	194	1904	70.6	9.81	72	13	7	17	167.95	
Projected	183	259	2539	70.6	9.81	72	17	9	23	167.95	

I don't include Cameron Newton here because he plays such a different kind of game; nobody else is setting up the pass by bashing heads up the middle with QB runs. But Aaron stacks up well against the league's other top upperclass pro-style QBs, including guys who get tons of short completions to RBs, which is only a small part of UGA's attack.

Dawg Doots:

- If you don't read Leather Helmet's recruiting blog, you should. LH and Chip Towers are the co-favorites to win the coveted Dawgmeister David Hale Award for Best Reporting on UGA football. LH reports this morning the following: "The latest coaching rumor is that powerful Miami boosters want Mark Richt if Randy Shannon is fired. That should set the fire-Mark-Richt crowd off like a roman candle: [Boosters say], *I continue to be pro-Shannon but I'm beginning to feel like the president of the Flat Earth Society. Last week made it that much harder to defend him, and Saturday would have multiplied the challenge had not the kid Morris rescued his coach. . . I hear top boosters already are unofficially assembling contingency plans in the event momentum for a coaching change gained traction. I hear Georgia coach Mark Richt, the former Cane, would be very high on wish lists.*" The lesson for the Fire Mark Richt crowd: Be careful about what you screech for, because you just might get it.
- Mark Richt led a pep rally Friday afternoon to support the United Way of Northeast Georgia. To contribute, go to <http://www.unitedwaynega.org/>.
- In a related story, Auburn University President Bobby Lowder held a rally to thank contributors for their donations to the campaign to keep Cameron Newton at Auburn for one more year, and to kickstart the campaign to raise enough to sign [David Sills](#).
- I heard on Saturday that UGA is ranked #1 in kickoff coverage in the SEC, and so has addressed a major area of concern the last few years. A coveted Dawgmeister Game Ball to Coach Warren Belin for turning this unit around. If you haven't met him, CWB is a terrific guy who reminds me of The Yoda, and I say that with admiration.
- Our reduction of penalties took a hit on Saturday, but mostly because we were playing guys at the bottom of the depth chart, and a few from the "whale doot" area of the roster (can't get any lower than that), for most of the second half.
- Auburn University Chief Financial Officer Bobby Lowder is incensed by the suggestion that Auburn University would condone the payment of athletes to play for the War Eagles. He says that his players love Auburn so much that some might even play there for free, and as evidence noted that no player from Auburn has ever gone early to the NFL, including short-career position players like Ronnie Brown and Cadillac Williams (so-named because of the new Escalade he drove every year while matriculating at Auburn), taken #2 and #5 in the 2005 NFL draft.

- The only thing I worry about with this year's coaching is that we haven't repped an underclassman at fullback in significant action all season. Part of the reasoning I'm sure is that we've got 2 outstanding seniors at the position. But after that, next year's guy appears to be Zander Ogletree, who is much smaller than we're accustomed to at the position, and we don't appear to be recruiting a fullback, at least according to the gurus out there. I suppose we might give Ken Malcome a look, but that's pure, uninformed speculation based on the assumption that Ealey and King will both return next year and Malcome wouldn't play much at tailback anyhow. Plus Ken is a hoss and has the physical makeup to play fullback.
- Forget about Auburn-Oregon. How about Auburn-Michigan? First team to 100 wins.
- According to Auburn University Athletic Director Bobby Lowder, Cameron Newton, invoking his father's special relationship with The Almighty, said last week that "God continues to bless me throughout this process, me and my family and most importantly the team."
- A program guy yesterday estimated that Trinton Sturdivant is playing at about 90% this season. A great comeback from a DGD and important portent for next year's team.
- The Rev. Bobby Lowder of Auburn, Alabama, reports that Cameron Newton's special relationship with The Lord resulted in the miraculous, untraceable appearance of \$50,000 to repair Rev. Cecil Newton's church (Bishop Eddie Long presiding) shortly after his son Cameron's enrollment at Auburn. The funds enabled Rev. Newton to comply with repairs demanded by city inspectors, who according to Rev. Lowder are godless heathens who need to mind their own damn business and stop interfering with the Lord's work. The divine materialization of the funds on Rev. Newton's altar appears to be another Festivus Miracle, with Cameron performing the Feats of Strength and Dan Mullen, who now has \$180,000 available for his own building projects, providing the Airing of Grievances.
- Idaho State has a WR named Roderic Rumble. If he'd been in Monty Python's *Life of Brian*, he'd have been called Wodewic Wumble. Put him at the gunner position with LSU's Rueben Randle—he of the gamebreaking 75-yard TD catch from Jordan Jefferson vs. Alabama—and on every punt we could holler, "Welease Wueben Wandle and Wodewic Wumble!"
- Speaking of Alabama, after the game Nick Saban told everyone who inquired about the loss to go to hell, that it was an internal matter that nobody outside the program is concerned with, and that he'd take care of everything if everyone would just go to hell and let him handle things, internally.
- Auburn Team Chaplain Bobby Lowder wants everyone to know that Cameron Newton has never sold one of his jerseys, unlike that cheater A.J. Green of UGA.
- Zenyatta lost a race? Time to put her down.
- If the heat turns up on Newton and he uncharacteristically (for an Auburn player) goes to the NFL to quarterback the Buffalo Bills (God's way of saying "Thanks, Cam"), I wonder how he'll do taking a salary cut, given that those pro outfits just don't have a Bobby Lowder around to handle their finances.
- The response to Todd Grantham's choke signal to the Florida kicker has produced mixed reviews. Tony Barnhart thinks CTG should be fined and suspended. But David Ching says that "If the rivalry occasionally slips into over-the-top professional wrestling antics, all the better. They're not supposed to play nice. I like Georgia's 2007 end-zone dancing.

I like Urban Meyer's celebratory timeouts the next season. . . . I'm all for Georgia's defensive coordinator coming unglued when the other team's kicker directs trash talk toward his sideline before attempting the game-winning field goal in overtime. If I'm a Georgia fan, I like all those things because it shows the rivalry means as much to the players and coaches as it does to me," although I suspect that the games mean a whole lot more to the players and coaches than to anyone else on earth, even if we occasionally lose one. Mrs. Butts thought that Coach Grantham had swallowed his chaw and was just trying to hack it out. Nobody cares what Jeff Schultz thinks.

- Meanwhile, I don't recall seeing Blair Walsh trash talking opposing teams any time recently. It was great to see Blair Walsh back on track. It was a windy day and he nailed a 53-yarder, although I did watch the big flag in the stadium and noticed that it died down during his kick, and then gusted back up again almost immediately. Must have been the Almighty taking a break from his support of Coach Bobby Lowder's Auburn Tigers and giving Blair an atta-boy, if not \$200,000.
- I was standing with some guys before the game who were talking with a player about Ben Jones, who has been Blessed by the Lord with being one crazy mo-fo. Jones is variously characterized by people who know him as afflicted, balmy, bananas, batty, bonkers, buggy, cracked, crackers, crazed, cuckoo, daffy, daft, demented, deranged, disordered, dotty, eccentric, harebrained, insane, off his rocker, loco, loony, mad, maniacal, mental, non compos mentis, not right in his right head, nuts, off his onion, potty, screwy, strange, teched, unbalanced, unsound, wacky, weird, and just plain wrong. He's also hungry. Apparently he is known to eat whatever flying, crawling, burrowing, and scurrying life forms he comes across on a practice field, including on one occasion (at least) a praying mantis that bit his tongue and temporarily paralyzed it. He also, just for fun, enjoys putting teammates in a pig-hold—remember, Big Ben is a country boy from way out in rural Alabama—that involves a holding the delighted recipient in a headlock and securing the facial area with two fingers inserted in the nostrils to pacify the beast, and probably the teammate too. The boy can be a little scary. But yes, you do want him in your foxhole.

The Forecast: The Dawgs go to Bobby Lowder, Alabama, to face the Bobby Lowder University Fighting Bobby Lowders. They have the nation's best, and best paid, football player in Cameron Newton, although he probably has just enough plausible deniability (cash is hard to trace) to remain eligible for at least one more week, which is what Coach Bobby Lowder is surely praying for (OK, he might want him for the Alabama game too). We all know the story: Newton has been unstoppable all season, no doubt because God has a special plan for him and will probably be adding a new wing to Rev. Newton's church if they win out, although He sure did let it go to seed before Cam signed with Auburn. And in spite of having one of the most ferocious DL in the country in Nick Fairley, the Auburn D likes to give it up as well as their O can dish it out. In the last 5 games, UGA is 4-1 with only an OT loss to Florida to ruin a perfect second season, and in the Florida game our turnovers helped Florida compensate (according to people who've seen film) for the manhandling our guys in the trenches laid on their linemen. So I don't see this as a team that's unbeaten and relatively unchallenged playing a team that's mediocre (including 3 losses without A.J. Green). I see it as two pretty hot teams squaring off in a game of national significance, as evidenced by the 3:30 kickoff on CBS to be called by the greatest college football broadcaster in history in Gary Danielson.

I think that the 3-4 alignment is clicking pretty well, and perhaps even ahead of the pace you'd expect with an overhaul of this degree. What we don't know is how any alignment can stop Cam Newton, who destroyed LSU, who physically matched up with Alabama and beat them with some outstanding coaching by the very underappreciated Les Miles. So let's assume that Newton will get his yards and points by land and air, and that The Lord will Bless him with the tools to win and the cash to buy his teammates a steak dinner after the game. The question then becomes, how many points can we score against their relatively porous defense? I suspect that we'll try to keep Newton off the field, which will of course lead to complaints that Mike Bobo is too conservative in his playcalling because he'll want to move the chains rather than go deep every other play. The trick is that we like to run between the tackles, which is where Mr. Fairley will be. I have only seen him on TV so don't know if he's mainly a pass rushing force or is stout against the run as well, so there will be some key battles in the trenches that I think will have a lot to do with the game's outcome. UGA uses zone blocking schemes and so can run guys at his zone, or at least, that's how I think it works. The game will hinge on how well we can control the clock and score TDs more than FGs, how effectively we can give them long fields when we have to punt, and how well we can earn field position through the kicking game. I say that the coaches prepare us in all dimensions of the game and that we come out of Auburn with a W. Good Guys, 41-38. Bad Guys: No bonus checks this week.

National Game of the Week: Oklahoma State at Texas. T. Boone Pickens has done for OSU what Bobby Lowder has done for Bobby Lowder University, except with a credit card rather than a cash box under a loose board in Coach Bobby Lowder's office. OSU gets more points per dollar than any team west of the Alabama border, and their coach is indeed a man, and a well-paid one at that. Meanwhile, Texas, in spite of having their pick of Texas talent each year and an annual national top 2 recruiting class provided for in the university charter, is an astounding 4-5, and I'm sure that there are people in Texas who want that bum Mack Brown fired for his incompetence, just as there are people in Athens and Gainesville (FL, that is) screeching the same thing about their highly accomplished coaches in down years. I think that UT pulls this one out and positions themselves for a Dawg-esque surge for a bowl game. Cows over Cowboys, 31-30.